

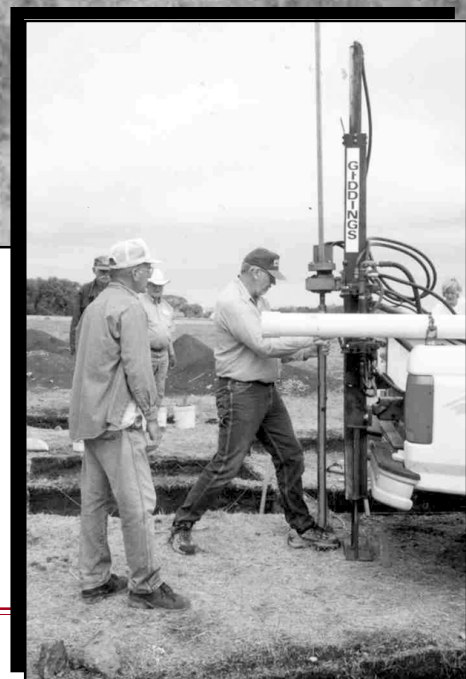
Kansas Preservation

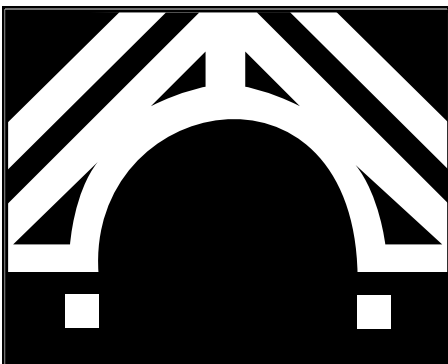
Newsletter of the Cultural Resources Division ▪ Kansas State Historical Society



Icehouses were common features on farms in the mid-twentieth century, but most disappeared from the landscape with the arrival of electricity. In Sheridan County, the search for the Cottonwood Ranch icehouse was the focus of recent extensive archeological fieldwork.

See pages 3-6.





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KANSAS PRESERVATION

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More Budget Cuts Implemented in December

In the last issue of *Kansas Preservation*, we reported specific program cuts that had been instituted by the Historical Society to cope with state budget cuts (See "State's Budget Shortfall Causes Program Cuts," November-December 2002, page 1). Since that time Governor Graves ordered an additional 3.9 percent cut from the agency's state general funds. With this cut of \$237,754 the agency has now had a reduction of \$514,705 in its \$6 million state general fund budget.

Among the measures taken to meet the latest cut was the layoff of eight additional full-time employees. Five positions had been laid off earlier to meet the prior budget cut. In addition to the 13 layoffs, the agency has kept 15 full-time and 5 part-time positions vacant to meet cuts in appropriations.

As a consequence of the loss of funds and the layoffs, the Historical Society has had to make some major adjustments in the availability of collections and services to the public. First, the hours at some of its facilities changed as of February 1. Both the Kansas Museum of History and the research room at the Kansas History Center (6425 S.W. Sixth, Topeka) are now closed to the public on Mondays. The museum is open 9-5 Tuesday-Saturday and 1-5 on Sunday. The research room is open 9-4:30 Tuesday-Saturday. The hours for the Society's administrative offices and the Cultural Resources Division remain 8-5 Monday-Friday.

The hours of operation at some of the state historic sites are also changed. Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site near Pleasanton and Grinter Place State

Historic Site in Kansas City are open Saturdays only until further notice. The hours at other sites may also be changed. Consult the Historical Society's website at www.kshs.org for specific hours.

A second major change is the implementation of admission fees for the Kansas Museum of History and the state historic sites. As of February 1 the

KSHS Responds to State Budget Cuts

The second round of cuts to the agency's state general funds resulted in the following actions:

- **Eight additional staff layoffs,**
- **Museum and research room closed on Mondays,**
- **Hours reduced at state historic sites, and**
- **Admission fees implemented for museum and state historic sites.**

museum admission fees are \$4 for adults, \$3 for members and seniors, \$2 for students, and \$1 per student for school tours. An annual pass for frequent visitors is available to families for \$30 and members for \$25; it will be honored at the museum and the historic sites. The museum store and Discovery Place remain free of charge and are also closed on Mondays. It should be noted that the institution of an admission fee pertains only to the museum and not to the other facilities at the Kansas History Center, such as the research room, the nature trail and grounds, offices, etc.

The admission fees at the state historic sites are \$3 for adults, \$2 for students and members, and \$1 per student for school tours.

In the event of additional cuts either in the current fiscal year or in the 2004 fiscal year, the Historical Society will have to make further adjustments in its operations.

Review Board Meetings Scheduled

The Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review is scheduled to meet February 22, 2003, at 9 a.m. in the classrooms at the Kansas Museum of History in Topeka. The principal agenda items will be the evaluation of proposed National Register nominations and consideration of applications for 2003 federal Historic Preservation Fund grants.

The next meeting will be held May 10, 2003, at the same Topeka location. That agenda will consist of nominations and consideration of Heritage Trust Fund applications.

Historical Society Launches New Web Site



Want to learn more about Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS) programs and events? Looking for guidance on researching your historic building or family history? Look no farther than your own computer.

The Kansas State Historical Society is pleased to announce the launch of its new web site, kshs.org. The new site provides information related to Kansas History and KSHS programs in a new, user-friendly format. The site offers information for persons with a wide range of interests, from every age group—from kids and teachers to genealogists, archeologists, and historians.

The new website replaces the society's award-winning first website, launched in 1995. The website averaged 90,000 user sessions per month. KSHS anticipates that the new site—featuring 3,500 pages of information on Kansas history—will not only accommodate an increased number of users, but also attract new ones.

At kshs.org you can ...

- Read past issues of *Kansas Preservation* and selections from other KSHS publications;
- Learn about workshops, programs, and events;
- Find contact information for KSHS staff;
- Get technical information on preserving buildings, heirlooms, and artifacts;
- Record archeological sites;
- Research Kansas history topics;
- Shop for Kansas gifts and books;
- Plan a heritage trip across Kansas;
- And more!



At your fingertips!

We invite you to browse the website. The homepage (shown above) provides links to various aspects of the agency. For example, to access information on archeology programs and services, click on "Archeologists." For information on historic properties and buildings, click on "Historic Properties."

In Search of the Pratts' Icehouse



Volunteers work on excavations during the 2002 KATP field school in search of the Cottonwood Ranch icehouse.

The primary goal of the fieldwork conducted at the Cottonwood Ranch State Historic Site during the 2002 Kansas Archeology Training Program (KATP) field school was to investigate the expected location of the icehouse. Prior to rural electrification (and subsequently refrigerators) which reached most farm areas in the middle of the twentieth century, icehouses were common features on farms. They were usually located either near the source of the ice or near the farmhouse or dairy barn. Ice was cut from rivers and ponds in the winter and stored in icehouses to be used to keep milk and other foods cold in warmer weather. Blocks of ice were later cut, hauled from the icehouse to the house, and placed in the icebox.

In order to keep the stored ice frozen as long as possible into the summer, icehouses were well insulated. Typically they were built partially or entirely below the ground, sometimes into the side of a hill. Sawdust, straw, hay, leaves, some similar material, or even dead air space could be used to provide insulation between double walls built approximately six inches apart.

What Was Known Prior to the 2002 Excavations?

Prior to the training program, Site Administrator Don Rowlison conducted historical research to determine the most likely location of the Pratt family's icehouse. Rowlison reviewed ranch records, looked at old maps and aerial photographs, and interviewed older area residents who remembered the structure. Research suggested that the icehouse was built between 1888 and 1890. Ice was obtained from the Smoky Hill River and from a pond about one-half mile from the house. Ranch records indicated that rural electrification reached the ranch in about 1931-1932 and that the last load of ice was delivered to the icehouse in December 1932. These sources did not provide details about the exact location of the icehouse relative to the farmhouse and other outbuildings or information about its construction.

A structure tentatively identified as the icehouse was visible in only one old photograph. Taken from some distance, the photo appeared to show the gable roof of the icehouse, with the eaves

reaching the ground surface, in the west bank of an intermittent drainage west of the house.

Memories of local residents and Pratt relatives provided some information. People interviewed recalled that the Pratts' icehouse was west of the house, although their estimates of the distance from the house varied. Some thought it had been only a short distance west of the drive on the west side of the house. Others placed it on the west bank of the

drainage near an area once used as a baseball diamond.

A nephew of the Pratt family, now deceased, remembered the icehouse as a 14-by 16-foot rectangular structure with the west or back wall excavated 6 feet into the ground. The exterior walls were stone and interior walls were tongue-and-groove wood. He remembered it as having a gabled roof with eaves extending to the ground surface.

Rowlison

walked over the area west of the ranch house searching for a likely location for the icehouse. He noticed an uneven depression in the west bank of a small draw where some stones and pieces of whiteware and stoneware ceramics were visible on the ground surface.

KATP Fieldwork

The KATP field investigation focused on the location identified by Rowlison on the west bank of the draw west of the Pratts' house. Since there were no clear foundations or structural evidence visible on the ground surface, there was no obvious starting point for the excavations. Walking over the site, the archeologists noted a possible slight rectangular depression and started by

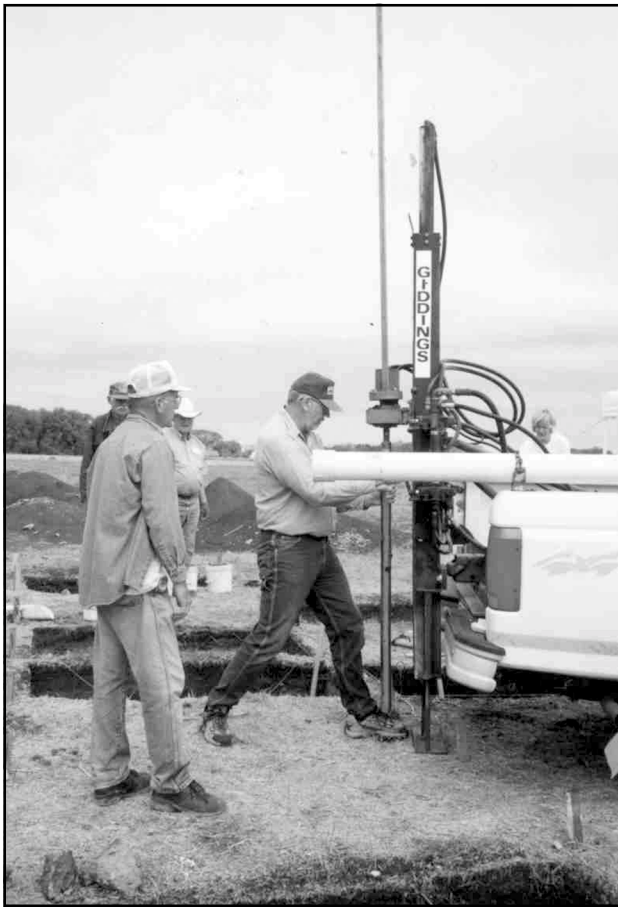


NRCS soil scientists Bob Tricks, Jim McDowell, and Brandon Wilcox discuss a soil core probe taken north of the 2002 KATP field school excavations at Cottonwood Ranch State Historic Site.

laying out two rows of units to bisect this depression and the surrounding area along east-west and north-south lines. This effectively divided the tract into four quadrants. A quick walkover survey also was conducted in this vicinity. Flagging pins were used to mark the locations of artifacts and stones visible on the ground surface. An Oakfield coring tool and several solid probes were used to prod beneath the ground surface in search of buried stones and/or loose or disturbed fill soils. Most of the flags were placed in the northwest quadrant, with a few scattered in the other three quadrants.

Excavation of the first dozen units along the two baselines found small to moderate quantities of historic artifacts, but no foundations or evidence of significant ground disturbance. A unit laid out in the northwest quadrant, where many of the pin flags had been placed, came down on disturbed soils that continued to a depth of nearly 90 centimeters (3 feet). Near the bottom of the disturbed soil, and covering much of the bottom of this unit, excavators encountered a number of pieces of Smoky Hill chalk. Several complete or nearly complete amber glass beer or ale bottles, along with other artifacts, also were recovered from this portion of the unit. Additional units were laid out near this unit, with the disturbed artifact-rich soils encountered in the majority. In many of these units, an organic lens, varying from about 5 to 20 centimeters (2 to 8 inches) in depth, was noted between the disturbed soils and the underlying culturally sterile, dark clay-like subsoil. This material appeared to be decomposed hay or straw. In some areas it was compacted and dense, while in others it was loose and fluffy. Dr. Clinton Owensby, a professor in the Department of Agronomy at Kansas State University, later confirmed in the laboratory the tentative field identification of this organic material. He indicated that it was hay, with no evidence of having been digested by animals.

During the second week of the



KAA volunteers watch as NRCS soil scientist Bob Tricks takes a soil sample with a truck-mounted Giddings core probe.

project, soil scientists from the National Resources Conservation Service volunteered time on the site with their truck-mounted Giddings coring tool. They extracted and analyzed five deep core samples from within and outside of the excavated area. The soil cores taken north, south, east, and west of the expected icehouse location clearly showed natural soil development, with evidence of flood episodes, buried paleosols (former surface soils), and rodent activity. The deep core taken in the northwest quadrant of the excavated area showed disturbed organic soils to a depth of approximately 1 meter (3 feet) below the



This article was prepared by Marsha King, who supervised the search for the icehouse at the Cottonwood Ranch. She also provided the accompanying photographs. Marsha is an archeologist on the staff of the Environmental Services Section of the Kansas Department of Transportation.

Cottonwood Ranch and the Pratt Family

Cottonwood Ranch was the Kansas home of John Fenton Pratt and his family from the 1880s until the 1980s when the Kansas State Historical Society acquired the property. Pratt, who was born in a village in Yorkshire, England, settled in Sheridan County with his father and brother in 1879. In 1885 he began construction of a stone house just northwest of present Studley, Kansas. On December 31, 1888, Pratt brought his childhood sweetheart, Jennie Place, from England, married her in Lenora, and brought her to his home.

Cottonwood Ranch, which took its name from the many cottonwood trees that were planted on the grounds,

expanded gradually as outbuildings were constructed between 1885 and 1897. The house was enlarged to accommodate a growing family. The Pratt's first daughter, Hilda, was born October 2, 1889,

and a second daughter, Elsie, arrived on September 23, 1894.

John Fenton Pratt—sheep rancher turned farmer, cattleman, investor, and financier—died on November 26, 1937. He was survived by Jennie, who lived another 22 years on the family's ranch. Hilda lived on the farm for many more years until her death on May 10, 1980.

Two years later the Kansas State Historical Society acquired the Cottonwood Ranch buildings and a small amount of surrounding land from John Fenton Pratt's farmstead. In 1983 the John Fenton Pratt Ranch was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

modern land surface. Beneath the disturbed soils, this core closely resembled the other four samples. The soil scientists also noted the decomposed organic material in this core.

Fifty excavation units, varying in size from 1 x 1 meter (3.3 x 3.3 feet) to 1 x 2 meters (3.3 x 6.6 feet), were excavated in the expected icehouse location. During the 16-day project a total of 96 square meters (1,033 square feet) were opened and nearly 54 cubic meters (1,907 cubic feet) of soil were excavated and screened. Unexcavated balk walls measuring approximately 20 centimeters (8 inches) wide were left between each unit to reveal the soil profiles. At least one wall profile from each unit was carefully drawn to record the soil strata. The deep artifact-laden disturbed soil was found to extend over an area of approximately 9 meters (29.5 feet) north to south and 8 meters (26 feet) east to west. The organic lens was encountered in most of these units. Similar organic material, but drier and with a dense compacted texture, was noted in several excavation units west and south of the deep units.

Artifacts Recovered

A secondary goal of the 2002 excavations was to recover artifacts associated with the Pratt family's occupation of the Cottonwood Ranch. It was anticipated that the excavations might uncover large quantities of artifacts deposited in the icehouse after it was abandoned (trash from the residents in the nearby house). Therefore, a recovery sampling strategy was developed before excavations began. If large quantities of artifacts were indeed found, the crew would be selective in what was collected. All objects that could be attributed to a particular time period, manufacturer, or place of manufacture or that were unique or unusual were collected. Artifact types that were present in large quantities but which could provide little information (for example, window glass fragments, nails, bones) were sampled. A small number of these items were collected from each excavation level to indicate their presence. The decision to adopt a sampling strategy proved a wise one. The number of poultry bones alone unearthed during the two weeks of excavations was conservatively estimated in the tens of thousands.

Nearly 7,000 artifacts were collected during the search for the Pratts' icehouse. Almost two-thirds of the assemblage consisted of household or domestic items, mostly complete and incomplete glass bottles and jars, fragments of metal



Margie Reed of Salina takes a depth reading as she draws the profile of one of the 78 meters of excavation unit walls for which she carefully recorded soil strata.

cans, and portions of ceramic and glass dishes. One of the more interesting complete bottles was a pyramidal bottle with an embossed base and paper label identifying it as having contained Carter's ink. The tableware assemblage included a large number of pieces identifiable as teacups, saucers, egg cups, plates, platters, and bowls, as well as at least one pitcher, a tureen, and a decorative purple slag glass compote. On the exterior of one of the cups was a black transfer-printed decoration of a public building and the label "Leeds Town Hall." Manufacturers' marks were present on several of the porcelain and whiteware sherds, identifying them as being produced by three British and one American firm: G. Meakin, J & G Meakin (1851-present), and Mellor-Taylor & Co. (1880-1904) in Staffordshire, England; and Empire Pottery (ca. 1863-1918) in Trenton, New Jersey.

Three pennies were recovered, two of which had legible dates of 1865 and 1890. Recreational items collected from the trash deposits included fragments of sixteen porcelain dolls and/or figurines, two toy dishes, a toy vehicle wheel, and an ivory cribbage game peg. Other domestic artifacts included metal cooking pot fragments, flatware and utensils, a variety of buttons, leather shoe parts, toiletry items, a sewing machine presser foot, three safety pins, part of a ceramic pipe, a possible eyeglass lens, and eight slate pencil fragments.

The remainder of the artifact assemblage recovered from the excavations



Cleve Mulder of Salina and Karla Picolet of Tecumseh complete paperwork to record the 10-centimeter level that they just finished excavating.

consisted primarily of construction materials, including nails, window glass, saw-cut Smoky Hill chalk pieces, and fragments of Ogallah limestone. Much smaller quantities of farm-related items (e.g., tools, harness items, farm machinery pieces, and fragments of wire) and miscellaneous items (e.g., shell cartridges, part of a pocket knife, and a railroad spike) were collected. In addition to the historic artifacts, sixteen prehistoric



KSHS archeologist Randy Thies listens in as KAA member Margie Reed provides an on-site orientation to some Boy Scouts from Kansas City, Kansas, who participated in the 2002 KATP field school.

artifacts were recovered, including flakes, a scraper, and projectile points.

Well, Was It the Icehouse?

No structural evidence was found to indicate that the location investigated during the 2002 KATP field school was indeed the icehouse at Cottonwood Ranch. There were no intact stone foundations and no abrupt vertical cuts into the bank. The lack of stone foundations could be explained if after the icehouse was no longer used, the stone had been removed, possibly for sale. There is a precedent for this at Cottonwood Ranch; Pratt's records indicate that he sold stones from an outbuilding damaged in a windstorm. Robbing of the icehouse foundation even could explain the lack of an abrupt vertical cutbank, as such a cut might have been obliterated by demolition activities. However, there is only supposition, and no documentary or physical evidence, to support such a scenario.

When first encountered, the dark clay-like subsoil underlying the organic material was interpreted as the icehouse floor covered with insulation. This author hoped that it would extend over an area roughly approximating the size of the structure. However, as more units were opened, this juxtaposition of the organic material immediately above the subsoil was found to cover a much larger area, making it less likely that it defined the location and boundaries of the icehouse. The presence of the sawed fragments of Smoky Hill chalk, some of which had nail

holes in them, and of the Ogallah limestone were the types of materials that were expected in the construction of the exterior walls of the icehouse. These stone types were used to construct the walls of the house and other ranch buildings. The nails and some of the other hardware fasteners could have been used on interior wood walls, roof, or door of an icehouse. It is very unlikely, however, that the window glass sherds would have been part of what is typically a windowless structure.

All that can be said currently is that the location excavated along the west bank of the small drainage was used as a dump site for a wide variety of materials used on the ranch. Among the items dumped here were intentionally shaped building stone, hardware fasteners, and hay possibly used as insulation material in the icehouse.

Initial examination of the artifact assemblage resulted in several preliminary conclusions about life at Cottonwood Ranch. It appears that the Pratt family maintained the British custom of tea drinking, likely enjoying an afternoon "cuppa." The recovered cups and saucers represented at least three different tea sets. The wide variety and decorative nature of the tableware items, as well as the quantity of fine porcelain and British ceramics, in this assemblage is very different from what typically is found at rural Kansas farmsteads of this time period. The Pratts apparently had more income to invest in these types of items and presumably used the many table

settings and service vessels to entertain visitors and/or guests in their home.

Glaze flaws and other imperfections noted on several sherds from utilitarian vessels, primarily various types of stoneware, suggest that these items may have been purchased as seconds. This would corroborate documentary evidence that Mr. Pratt was something of a "penny-pincher." The mug decorated with the Leeds town hall is particularly interesting in that the city of Leeds is located near John Fenton Pratt's birthplace in England. This may have been a souvenir of his distant home.

While sheep and later cattle were raised on the ranch, greater quantities of poultry (turkeys, geese, and possibly chickens) were represented by the bones in the trash deposit. The quantity of egg cups recovered suggested that eggs were also a popular item in the family's diet. The Pratts' two daughters must have enjoyed playing with dolls and toy dishes, as these were present in the assemblage, while toys that might be associated with boys were nearly absent. Again, the number of dolls represented by these fragments seems greater than a family of lesser means could have afforded.

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Menno Community Hall

A Testament to Community Spirit



The Menno Community Hall, which was designed by Howard T. Blanchard of Garden City, was constructed in 1936-1937 at a cost of \$18,555.

The Menno Community Hall (c. 1937), located in southeastern Hamilton County, was recently nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for its association with the Work Projects Administration (WPA) and the Menno Community Club and for its architectural significance as a modern adaptation of an early American, rustic style of building. The overall style and detailing of the hall are representative of the work of the WPA. The building's significance stems from its importance to the local community.

With a bleak agricultural outlook in the Great Depression, there is no doubt that Menno, Kansas, and its area residents lived the typical nightmare we have seen through old photographs, history books, and on film. Fields sat barren, the result of dust and wheat planting damage. Anyone traveling through the area would have seen sage-covered sandhills along road ditches drifted level with dust. Yet, the Menno Community Club rallied to give the community the hope and faith needed to survive the hard times.

Founded around 1910, the Menno Community Club organized baseball teams, which competed ably with the best

in this section of the state. Local thespians presented plays for the community, and, when taken to neighboring county seats, these performances equaled the best that the towns could offer. The Menno Sunday school and church was a lively organization with an enrollment of practically every child within a radius of ten miles. Menno socials and pie suppers also took place at the community building. All the activities greatly over-taxed the capacity of the building; clearly a new building was needed.

The Menno Community Club had a membership of over 700 people by the late 1930s. The membership mustered their spirit of community friendliness and cooperation to petition and raise sponsorship money for the

construction of a Works Projects Administration (WPA) community building. During the early stages of planning and construction, the WPA officials stated that the building

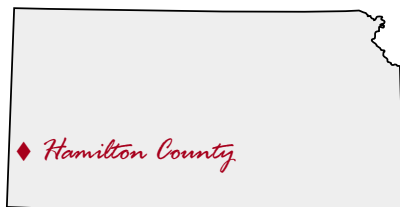
was an outstanding example of local cooperation with the government administration.

It was truly a community works project, and the construction provided much needed work for the men in the surrounding areas. Contributions, not

taxes, provided the sponsor's share in the building. The May 21, 1937, issue of *The Syracuse Journal* detailed the Menno Community Building's history upon its dedication:

Because of a WPA ruling, the district school board technically is the sponsor, as a taxing unit, but no taxes have been levied for the project, and the Community Club has been the only group to take any part in raising the money. In an area once among the most productive in southwestern Kansas, but for the past four years plagued with dust, they have raised in money or contributed in work about \$4,000 for the building of their community center.

The building was designed by Howard T. Blanchard of Garden City, Kansas, with an estimated cost of \$18,555. The concrete for the foundation was poured on July 1, 1936. The residents of the community declared a holiday, with nearly every able-bodied man and boy in the neighborhood spending all day on the job. The ladies of the community joined in the work by providing a chicken dinner at noon and another meal in the evening. The men poured 370 sacks of cement into the foundation, which had a perimeter of 350 feet. As construction continued,



community meetings were held in which volunteers were always requested and always found.

The building was constructed of local limestone quarried in the southwest part of Hamilton County, about fifteen miles west of the new building site. It was taken from the quarry by WPA labor, dressed, and set in the building by men who had never done such labor before. The local newspaper gave an assessment of the stone: "It is a brown limestone, occasionally streaked with a rose line, and blends well into a building to give a pleasing whole."

The design of the building is a good example of a modern adaptation of early American architecture and an excellent description of the building's design was given in the Friday, May 21, 1937, edition of *The Syracuse Journal*:

The approximate size of the structure is 36 feet in width by 76 feet in length. It is constructed of native stone walls laid in coursed ashlar style, wood framed first floor and wood framed roof covered with cedar shingles. The first floor will accommodate the main auditorium with stage and dressing rooms at either side, toilet rooms and rest room facilities will serve the auditorium. The seating capacity of this room is approximately 230 people. The basement floor will have a spacious dining room, seating approximately 100 people. Other rooms serving this floor will be men's and women's toilets, kitchen, sewing room, storage room and furnace room.

After almost one year of construction and furnishing, the new Menno Community Hall was completed. The dedication was scheduled for Monday, May 24, 1937, but due to tremendous dust blowing, it was postponed until Thursday, June 17, 1937. Originally a crowd of 3,000 was expected to celebrate the dedication, but the postponement as well as continued dust blowing brought only 1,000 attendees. A morning softball game kept onlookers entertained until the beginning of the dedication ceremony. At 10:45 a.m.

a Masonic cornerstone ceremony began, conducted by Masonic Grand Master of Kansas Charley B. Erskine. At noon Governor of Kansas Walter A. Huxman and his entourage arrived.

The program was altered slightly, due to the dust storm. Lunch was served downstairs in the basement of the new building and the governor's address took place in the new auditorium, where attendees crowded into the 230-seat capacity room. According to the local newspaper report, Governor Huxman praised the courage of the Menno people for building for the future in spite of the present conditions, and expressed the hope that they would enjoy their fine new building to the utmost. The newspaper



The hall's nomination to the National Register of Historic Places is the result of efforts by local residents to save the structure from the further damages of time and vandalism.

also commented that, because of adverse weather conditions, the governor's remarks were very appropriate and he received firsthand knowledge of what the residents of Menno have endured during the construction of the building. The remainder of the dedication consisted of musical numbers and other programs.

The new Menno Community Hall served a multi-purpose function for the families of the surrounding areas. Along with worship services and Sunday school, pie and box suppers, 4-H meetings, card parties, dances, and weekly sewing circle meetings took place at the new facility. Once a year, a bazaar was held to auction off the items made during these weekly meetings. The money received from the auctions was used to help with maintenance expenditures for the building. The local rural school children as well as other youngsters from the surrounding areas performed musical

and talent programs in the auditorium. The Christmas programs were especially delightful and were the result of weeks of preparation to learn the various parts. All of these functions provided much entertainment for the rural families of the area for many years.

In the 1950s the building was well utilized by the community surrounding it. The annual Menno Sewing Circle Bazaar was still being held and a new six-piece living room suite set was donated for use on the community building stage for performances.

The building continued to serve the people of the communities in the four-county area into the 1980s. When the rural schools closed one by one and the

children were bussed into town for their education, most of the activities that were held within the Menno Community Hall were also moved into town. Thus, when the final rural school closed in the 1980s, the Menno Community Hall also closed. Since that time, the building has remained vacant. Clearly visible on a hilltop, the deteriorating building stands as a tribute to the community.

In 1994 vandals broke into the building and did much damage to both the exterior and interior of this historic building. This event—along with the publication of a book entitled *The Dust Bowl Diary of Mary Knackstedt*

Dyck, the wife of original Mennonite settler Henry Dyck, which chronicles the community of Menno and the construction of the Menno Community Building—prompted a rejuvenated interest in saving the building from more vandalism and possible destruction.

It was through the spirit and hardy resilience of local people that the Menno Community Hall was made possible, and it is hoped that through the same spirit and hardy resilience the Menno Community Hall will be saved. Precisely because of the continued decline of population in rural areas, remaining buildings such as this should be protected as monuments to the vanished communities of rural America.

This article is based on a nomination prepared by Heather O'Hara, National Register intern with the Kansas State Historical Society from January to May 2002.



Tod Bevitt of the Kansas State Historical Society and Jack Hofman and Darcy Morey of the University of Kansas conduct preliminary excavations of an early component in April 2000. Photograph by Rolfe Mandel.

Requirements for Participation in the Training Program

- Participants are encouraged to become members of the Kansas Anthropological Association. Membership options include individual (\$22), family (\$25), and student (\$5). The student category entitles students to attend the field school and take classes, but they will not receive KAA publications. All other members will receive four newsletters, *The Kansas Anthropologist* (the annual KAA journal), and six issues of *Kansas Preservation* during the year. A membership application is a part of the registration packet.
- A project fee is required of all participants to help defray the costs of running the program. The fee for KAA members is \$20 per person if received by the advance registration date, June 1, 2003, and \$30 thereafter. The fee for non-members is \$80 prior to June 1 and \$90 after the advance registration deadline. Fees should be submitted with all completed registration forms. Each participant is responsible for expenses of his own transportation to the project area, lodging, and food. Suggestions for places to stay, camp, eat, and shop will be included in the registration packet.
- All participants must be at least 10 years of age, and those younger than 14 must work with a parent or other sponsoring adult at all times. A legally responsible adult must accompany those between 14-18 years of age on the project.
- Before taking part in field school activities, all participants must attend an orientation session addressing the goals of the program and archeological background of the excavation site. First time participants of the KATP must also attend the two-hour Principles of Archeology course to acquaint them with techniques and protocols of field methods.
- The training program is a serious scientific effort and procedures and instructions are to be followed at all times. Each participant will be required to maintain certain written records during the course of the day. These records become part of the permanent site file. All accumulated records and artifacts will be stored by KSHS in Topeka for future research and museum use.
- Each participant should complete the health and medical summary included in the registration packet. These forms are confidential, used only in the case of an emergency during the project, and destroyed at the conclusion of the program.

Registration packets will be available around March 1, 2003. The packet contains all the necessary registration forms as well as additional details about the site and the training program. Registration packets may be requested by writing to:

Kansas Anthropological Association
P.O. Box 750962
Topeka, KS 66675-0962
or e-mail KansasKAA@netscape.net.

Early registration is strongly encouraged. Participation in some aspects of the training program will be limited. We look forward to another successful field school and hope to see you there.

New Investigations of Our Earliest Residents

The 2003 Kansas Archeology Training Program (KATP) field school will be held at the Claussen site (14WB322) in Wabaunsee County. Since 1975, the training program has been a joint effort between the Kansas Anthropological Association (KAA) and the Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS). Due to budgetary constraints, the KSHS will not be able to offer direct support for the program this year. Plans are underway to renew the cooperative relationship for 2004.

In the meantime, however, the KATP field school will proceed much as it has in the past. One major change is the date. Traditionally, the annual program has been held in early June; this year the dates will be July 12-July 20. This change accommodates the harvesting of crops that cover a portion of the site.

Financial support comes from the Odyssey Archeological Research Fund. The fund supports a joint research effort between the Kansas Geological Survey and the University of Kansas Department of Anthropology. The Odyssey Institute is interested in the search for evidence of the earliest humans in mid-continent North America.

Several professional archeologists will provide supervision. Dr. Jack Hofman, professor of anthropology, University of Kansas, will lead the investigations of the older site components. Dr. Donna Roper, adjunct associate professor of anthropology, Kansas State University, will concentrate on the ceramic cultures represented at the site. Dr. Rolfe Mandel, Kansas Geological Survey, will assist with his knowledge of geomorphology. Other professional archeologists will teach classes and lead survey activities.

The Claussen Site

Is the site threatened? This is the first question asked when selecting a site for the annual training program. Each year across the state, many sites are lost due to natural erosion, agricultural

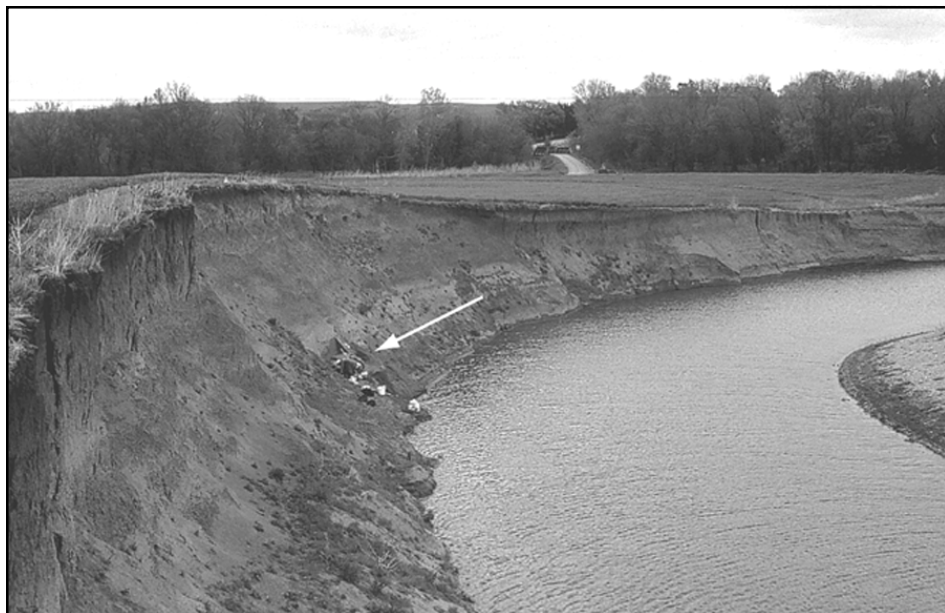
activities, construction, and even looting. Archeologists do not have the resources available to investigate every threatened site, so a site that is not in immediate danger generally is not considered for excavation.

Does the site have the potential to yield significant new information? Priority is given to sites in a temporal or spatial area that have received relatively little attention. Often archeological work is done to mitigate the loss of information due to highway or other construction; this is good, but it does not always add a great deal to our understanding of the past. The KATP focuses on important sites that do not have funding from other sources to address long-standing research questions.

The Claussen site rates very high in both considerations. The site was recorded by Dr. Mandel in Spring 2000 during a statewide geoarcheological investigation. It is a deeply buried, highly stratified, multi-component site exposed along a very steep cutbank in Mill Creek valley. Every heavy rain in the area causes the loss of a little more of the site. It is unknown how much of the site has already been lost and how much remains. However, over time the entire site certainly will be washed away. The topmost portions of the site are being disturbed by modern agriculture.

The research potential for the Claussen site is tremendous. At least seven different cultural levels have been identified at the site. Preliminary work by Drs. Mandel and Hofman has shown that one component of the site dates to 8,800±150 radiocarbon years before present, and there are at least two components below this early one. The radiocarbon age indicates a Late Paleoindian or Early Archaic period occupation. There are only about fifty sites of this age recorded in the entire state.

Paleoindian and Early Archaic peoples often are referred to as big game hunters. Much of what we know of this time period comes from archeological investigations of kill sites or bone beds (see *Kansas Preservation* 24[1]:4-5, 13). The Claussen site may represent the best example that apparently is not a kill site. Early indications are that the site may be a mussel collection area. Dr. Hofman has recovered lithic debitage (waste flakes from stone tool manufacture), burned and unburned mussel shell, and animal bone



The arrow points to three early components in the long, steep cutbank of Mill Creek, while later components are exposed to the right of the arrow. Photograph by Rolfe Mandel.

from the deeper cultural deposits. The recovered bone is not of the megafauna generally associated with Paleoindians. No diagnostic artifacts have been recovered yet to help identify more precisely the peoples using the site. The deepest cultural deposits are in a buried soil dating to the Pleistocene-Holocene boundary, and the overlying deposits accumulated during the early through middle Holocene period. Judging by the buried soil and associated radiocarbon dates, the early components at 14WB322 may be the material remains of people adapting to the end of the last ice age.

Charcoal from a buried burned-rock feature exposed in a portion of the cutbank yielded a radiocarbon age of 810±70 years before present. A buried Middle Ceramic component is also exposed in the cutbank. These cultural horizons may represent later episodes of people exploiting the mussels in the creek or they may represent other purposes altogether. Testing of these cultural deposits may yield some important clues about site function. Another ceramic culture is present in the plow zone. Test units here may reveal the cultural affiliation. Testing also should help define the limits of the various site components.

Additional Activities

The Kansas Archeology Training Program has a long history of introducing interested laypersons to the discipline of archeology. In addition to the field excavation, a field laboratory will be established to process recovered

materials. Courses in basic excavation, lithic identification techniques, and Kansas prehistory will be offered for college credit through Emporia State University or may be taken simply for personal edification. A survey of the surrounding area will be conducted to identify other archeological sites and to put the Claussen site into a larger context. Various evening programs offer additional educational and social opportunities.

Final Reminder of HTF Application Deadline

March 3, 2003, is the deadline for submitting applications for the 2003 round of Heritage Trust Fund grants. In order to be eligible for consideration, applications must be postmarked by that date or hand-delivered to the Historic Preservation Office by 4:45 p.m. on March 3, 2003.

Properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places or the Register of Historic Kansas Places—except for those owned by the federal or state governments—can compete for these funds. The Heritage Trust Fund program provides an 80 percent grant with a 20 percent cash match from the applicant. Approximately \$900,000 is expected to be awarded in the 2003 round.

Questions may be directed to the grants manager at (785) 272-8681 Ext. 216.

This article was prepared by Dick Keck, who is in his second term as president of the Kansas Anthropological Association.

Tax Credit Seminar Planned in Wichita

The Wichita Historic Preservation Board and staff are pleased to announce that they are hosting a State/Federal Historic Income Tax Credit Seminar on March 13, 2003, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Consistory, 322 E. First Street, Wichita.

The seminar is intended for historic property owners, both commercial and residential, architects, developers and generally anyone involved in the process of rehabilitating historic structures. Architects attending the conference can receive six CES hours.

Participants will be provided information on the workings of the State and Federal Historic Income Tax Credit programs, application of the Secretary of the Interior's design standards for the treatment of historic structures, utilizing senior housing tax credits and affordable housing tax credits in conjunction with historic tax credits, and transferring historic tax credits. The seminar will conclude with review of case studies from around the state and on-site tours of tax credit projects in Wichita.

Partial funding for this seminar is provided by Historic Preservation Funds from the National Park Service, which were granted to the City of Wichita by the Historic Preservation Office of the Kansas State Historical Society. The event is co-sponsored by the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office, Commerce Bank, Key Construction, and the Kansas Preservation Alliance. Brochures were mailed in late January. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Morgan or Jeanne de Grasse at (316) 268-4421 or jmorgan@wichita.gov or jdegrasse@wichita.gov.

Happenings in Kansas

Let's Play: Pastimes from the Past

Present - March 1, 2003
Special Exhibits Gallery
Kansas History Center
This traveling exhibit from the Rogers Historical Museum (Arkansas) looks at pastimes from the turn of the century.

Winter in Kansas Photo Exhibit

February 2003
Center for Historical Research
Research Room Gallery
9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday

From Far Away Russia: Russian-Germans in Kansas Exhibit

Center for Historical Research Gallery
February - March 18, 2003

Bleeding Kansas Program Series

February 2 - March 3, 2003
Lecompton, KS
For more information, call
(785) 887-6520.

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review

February 22, 2003
Kansas History Center Classrooms
See page 1.

Heritage Trust Fund Grant Application Deadline

March 3, 2003
See page 10.

Now Closed on Mondays

Kansas Museum of History
Hours 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tuesday - Saturday
1 - 5 p.m. Sunday

KSHS Library/Research Room
Hours 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday - Saturday

Tax Credit Seminar

March 13, 2003
Wichita, KS
See article at left.

Artists of the American West

March 25 - June 20, 2003
Special Exhibits Gallery
Kansas History Center
Indians, trappers, traders, settlers, the Pony Express, and railroad construction are all subjects illustrated in hand-colored lithographs and wood engravings by featured artists John J. Audubon, Albert Bierstadt, Karl Bodmer, George Catlin, Frederic Remington, John Mix Stanley, and many others.

Cottonwood Ranch Sheep Dog Trials

May 3 - 4, 2003
Cottonwood Ranch State Historic Site
For information, call (785) 627-5866 or email cotton@kshs.org

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review

May 10, 2003
9 a.m.
Kansas History Center Classrooms

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review

August 23, 2003
9 a.m.
Kansas History Center Classrooms

Kansas Archeology Training Program

July 12 - 20, 2003
See pages 9-10.

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review

November 8, 2003
9 a.m.
Kansas History Center Classrooms



Return Service Requested

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cultural Resources Division
6425 S.W. Sixth Avenue
Topeka, KS 66615-1099

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